

**TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SUMMARY OF OFFENSE AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT**

TPD CASE # 19-0162754  
INVESTIGATOR: D. Warren #354  
VICTIM: Teshia Petersen

TO: FIRST APPEARANCE MAGISTRATE

DEFENDANT: Mia Williams

DATE ARRESTED: TBD

CHARGES: Attempted First Degree Murder- FSS: 782.04(1)(a)(1)

**SUMMARY OF OFFENSE AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, at 6:18 PM, the Consolidated Dispatch Agency received a call from Tallahassee business, Taco Bell located at 2806 s. Monroe Street. The caller advised a suspect known to them to have been previously issued a Trespass Warning was inside the business. The caller further advised the suspect acted erratically; the suspect jumped behind the employee counter and turned the lights on and off before fleeing from the business. The suspect was described as a black male with a red bandana and jeans.

At 6:35 PM, the Consolidated Dispatch Center received a subsequent call from the Taco Bell. They were advised the suspect returned, poured gasoline on an employee and lit the employee on fire. Officer D. Biederman responded and arrived at the Taco Bell at 6:37 PM. The victim was identified as Taco Bell Employee Teshia Petersen. Leon County Emergency Medical Services responded and treated victim Petersen. Due to the significance of victim Petersen's inflicted injuries, she was transported by helicopter to Shands Burn Center in Gainesville, Florida. I was the department's on-call Violent Crime Homicide Unit Investigator and made aware of this incident by Officer D. Biederman. I responded to the Taco Bell and learned from officer's victim Petersen suffered third degree burns to approximately twenty five percent of her body.

Officers reviewed video evidence at the Circle K located across the street from the Taco Bell. The suspect was captured on video at the Circle K at 6:29 PM. The suspect purchased a small amount of gasoline. In the video footage, the suspect carried a blue water bottle. I reviewed the footage at the Taco Bell. At 6:32 PM, the suspect entered the business with a blue water bottle. When the suspect returned, the business was open and patrons were in the dining area. Based on witness statements, the suspect asked, "where's that bitch" and referred to victim Petersen. In the footage, the suspect appeared to search for access to the kitchen/employee area. The suspect walked behind the counter into the kitchen area.

The suspect located victim Petersen near the food preparation and drive thru area. The suspect moved towards the victim quickly. After the suspect became closer to the victim, a large fire engulfed the majority of the area captured by the Taco Bell's surveillance system. The suspect was observed jumping over the employee counter and fleeing from the business. Based on the footage, it appeared as if the suspect's clothing was on fire as he jumped over the counter and may have sustained injury.

The department's Forensic Unit responded and documented the crime scene. Forensic evidence was also collected. The Tallahassee Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), and State's Fire Marshal also responded to assist with the investigation. A blue water bottle like the one carried by the suspect in the video at the Circle K and the Taco Bell was located behind the front counter of the business. The top of the bottle was melted. This is believed to be the container the suspect used to transport the gasoline. Evidence of fire was discovered in the drive thru area and near the food preparation area where the victim was positioned in the video before the suspect poured gasoline on her.

Victim: T. Petersen

Case #: 19-0162754

Officers identified multiple witness to include patrons and employees and interviewed them. Based on interviews, officers determined victim Petersen poured water on the suspect after he initially refused to leave and jumped the counter into the employee area. It is believed this action caused the suspect to target victim Petersen. Based on the information provided by Taco Bell Employees, suspect Mia Williams was developed. I confirmed suspect Williams was previously issued a Trespass Warning for the business on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 for causing a scene and disturbing patrons. This was consistent with information provided by employees of the business who recognized the suspect.

Officer A. Shea #765 had repeated contact with Williams previous to this incident responded to the business. Officer Shea observed the footage. Officer Shea informed me he was certain the suspect captured in the video was Williams. Two patrons in the business who witnessed the incident were transported to the Police Station and shown photographic lineups. The lineup procedures were video recorded. Both patrons positively identified Williams as the suspect in this matter.

To summarize, Williams was previously issued a Trespass Warning for the Taco Bell. Williams returned to the Taco Bell in violation of the previously issued Trespass Warning on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Williams was recognized by employees who reported the violation to the Consolidated Dispatched Agency. At the Taco Bell, Williams jumped over the counter into the employee area and turned the lights on and off, disrupting the flow of business. Victim Petersen poured water onto Williams after he refused to leave. Williams left and went across the street to the nearby Circle K. Williams purchased a small amount of gasoline which he transported inside a plastic water bottle. Williams returned and specifically sought victim Petersen. Williams walked into the employee area, located Petersen, and poured the gasoline on her which ignited causing her to suffer extreme injury necessitating her being flown to Shands for immediate treatment. Williams was identified by a law enforcement officer and two independent witnesses. According to one of the witnesses, Williams appeared proud of his actions as he fled from the business.

Based on the investigation, Williams specifically targeted victim Petersen. Williams' actions were premeditated. Williams' actions caused extreme injury to victim Petersen which could have resulted in her death. Based on the facts and circumstances of this investigation, there is Probable Cause to charge Williams with one count of **Attempted Murder** pursuant to **FSS: 782.04(1)(a)(1)**.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, ASA. L. Bueno approved this Probable Cause for prosecution.

Victim: T. Petersen

Case #: 19-0162754

THE PRECEDING IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE OR BELIEF.

SIGNATURE D. [Signature] 354

AGENCY: TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**NOTARIZATION:**

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY  
OF October 2019.

[Signature] 737  
~~NOTARY PUBLIC / ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY~~ / LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: FULL TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

**ORDER**

THIS CAUSE coming before me as a First Appearance Magistrate, and having reviewed the preceding affidavit, this court finds:

☒ Probable Cause Is Sufficient  
☐ Probable Cause Is NOT Sufficient

[Signature]  
JUDGE